

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 29-53 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 45-48 are pending in this application after this amendment. New claim 53 is presented for consideration by the Examiner. No new matter has been added by the addition of this claim. Based on the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

By this amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to more appropriately recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner indicated that a certified copy of the priority document is not in the U.S. Patent Office's file. The Examiner further rejected claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12, 16-19, 29-31, 33-35, 37-39, 41-43 and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Evans (USP 6,577,746); rejected claims 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Kenner (USP 5,956,716); rejected claims 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Rhoads (USP 5,850,481); rejected claims 32, 36, 40 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Godlewski (USP 3,852,088); and rejected claims 49-52 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Wolfgang (USP 6,625,295). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Preliminary Comments

This amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Personal Interview. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to schedule and conduct an Interview prior to the Examiner formally considering the amendments and remarks made herein on the record.

Priority Document

The Examiner indicated that the certified copy of the priority document is not located in the file wrapper. Applicant respectfully submits that the priority document was properly filed concurrently with the filing of the present application. In support of this assertion, Applicant respectfully submits a stamped copy of the postcard indicating that the priority document was properly filed. As such, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Evans discloses all of the elements as follows:

- ID information, citing to a watermark ID,
- "wherein the original image further includes at least second image data;" citing to a watermark image,
- extracting a portion of the initial image data that corresponds to the second image data, asserting Evans discloses that the watermark is extracted to product pristine version of the original image;
- composing the processed image data for output such that the second image data is in the processed image data and wherein the second image data overlays the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data, asserting Evans discloses that the watermark is then applied to pristine picture, which is then output by a printer.

As can be seen from the rejection, the Examiner relies on the watermark disclosure to teach both the ID information and the second image data.

In contrast, the invention set forth in claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image output method comprising obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having at least a portion of the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the

original picture, and wherein the original image further includes at least second image data, **said second image data being unrelated to said ID information and any watermark data.**

As can be seen from claim 1, the second image data is data that is unrelated to the any watermark information.

In contrast, the invention disclosed in Evans is directed to watermark-based object linking and embedding. OLE-like principles are implemented using watermark data in digital objects in order to effect object linking or embedding. In one embodiment, a photocopier scans an original paper document to produce image data. This image data is analyzed for the presence of watermark data identifying a graphic on the document. With this watermark identifier, the photocopier can query a remote image database for pristine image data corresponding to the scanned graphic. This pristine data can be relayed from the remote database to the photocopier and substituted into the scanned image data. Output printed from the photocopier is thus based, at least in part, on pristine image data, rather than on image data that has been subjected to various corruption mechanisms (e.g., degradation of the original paper document, artifacts due to scanning, etc.). A "photocopy" better than the "original" can thereby be achieved (Abstract).

However, Evans fails to teach or suggest the second image data overlays the portion of the equivalent original picture data in the processed image data, wherein the second image data is unrelated to ID information and any watermark data.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Evans fails to anticipate the claimed invention by failing to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements as noted above. It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

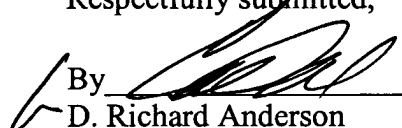
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin Reg. No. 52,327 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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